Import of Animal Products

*519. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of animal products imported from 1st April, 2001, to date, category-wise;

(b) the details of cases in which the imported animal products were found to be unfit for consumption; and

(c) the extent of damage caused to domestic industry due to these imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Animal products are classified under Chapter 1 to 5 of ITC (HS) Classifications of export and import items. The detailed item-wise import data for these items for the period 1st April 2001 onwards has not yet been finalised. However, according to the provisional estimates for April - May, 2001 imports of Poultry had been 0.1 ton and that of milk and milk products 51 tons.

(b) In order to enable the Government to take necessary action to protect the health of the human and animal health population of the Country, the Livestock Importation (Amendment) Bill has been passed in 2001. As per the amendment, the imports are permitted only against sanitary import permits issued after the conduct of import risk analysis with regard to the disease status of the exporting country *vis-a-vis* our own disease status.

(c) This level of imports is not significant enough to cause any serious damage to domestic industry.

Sending of Dollars Abroad through Parcels

†520. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of sending dollars abroad through parcels is gaining momentum in the country;

(b) if so, whether some persons have recently been arrested in this connection;

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating to curb this practice and take action against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) CBI seized Connaught Place Speed Post articles No. 2600 and 2601 dated 8.6.2001 booked as documents and destined for Hongkong on 9.6.2001 at Delhi RMS and found US dollars 25000 in each of them as per the seizure report of CBI furnished to the Department. No other case of transmission of US dollars by post has been reported either by customs or by CBI.

(b) Four outsiders namely S/Sh. Sujeet Singh Chopra, Harpal Singh Chopra, Ravel Singh Chopra and Daljeet Singh have been arrested.

(c) and (d) Speed Post articles booked for foreign destinations are required to be accompanied by a declaration regarding contents in a form prescribed by the customs. The procedure for examination of such articles which is done by the customs is reviewed regularly for achieving greater efficiency and every possible cooperation is extended by the Department of Posts in this regard.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

† 3820. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of air-strips in various parts of the country name-wise and State-wise ?

(b) whether there are any such air-strips which are not operational at present;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) State-wise list of Airports/Air-strips belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) is given in the Satement *(see* below*)*

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The air-strips are non-operational due to poor traffic potential and non-availability of small aircraft with the airlines.

(d) Requests have been made to the State Governments to take over such airports for up-gradation and operational use. State Government of Maharashtra has taken over Sholapur and Kohlapur airports under lease agreement from AAI. No other State Government has shown any interest, so far.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.